

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PAPAISOV/ATKINSON MEETING
REF: STATE 037038

1. PAPAISOV DELEGATION SPENT FEBRUARY 9-10 IN WASHINGTON MEETINGS. DELEGATION INCLUDED PAPAISOV; PETROV; DESPOTOV; AMBASSADOR GRIGOROV (WHO HAD PRESENTED COPIES OF HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FEBRUARY 8 IN ORDER TO ACCOMPANY DELEGATION (REFTEL); CHARGE HIMMIRSKY; BULGARIAN EMBASSY SCIENTIFIC AND AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR STANCHO BEREMSKY; BULGARIAN NEW YORK DEPUTY COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR STEFAN KOSSEV; BULGARIAN UN MISSION COUNSELOR FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS TODOR BOYADJIEV (PAPAISOV'S NEPHEW); AND INTERPRETER ILKA AVRAMOV. BULGARIAN DESK OFFICER (GLENN) ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION FEBRUARY 9-10.

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2. PAPAISOV DELEGATION MET ON FEBRUARY 9 FOR HALF-HOUR BEFORE SIGNATURE OF NSF-SCSTP AGREEMENT WITH NSF DIRECTOR RICHARD C. ATKINSON AND OTHER OFFICIALS. SUMMARY OF MEETING FOLLOWS. DR. ATKINSON COMMENTED THAT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS CRITICAL TO CONTINUED US ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NSF IS EXTENSIVELY ANALYZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN

SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE IS

INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT; COUNTRIES SHOULD SHARE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION. SOME CRITICIZE US FOR PARTICIPATING IN SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, ARGUING THAT WE RECEIVE LESS THAN WE CONTRIBUTE. THE FACTS ARGUE OTHERWISE. EXCHANGES BENEFIT BOTH SIDES. THE NSF IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN MICROPROCESSORS, COMPUTER SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, AND AGRICULTURE.

3. PAPAPOV NOTED THAT UNIVERSITIES DO 60 OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN BULGARIA. DESPITE FACT THAT SCSTP RECENTLY LOST JURISDICTION OVER HIGHER EDUCATION, HIS COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE IN FINANCING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND IN MEETING SOCIETY'S ECONOMIC NEEDS. HIS COMMITTEE IS INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES, MAKING SCIENCE POLICY, AND ASSIGNING GOVERNMENT AN APPROPRIATE ROLE IN THIS EFFORT. SCIENCE ALREADY COSTS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT. THE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION IS THE LEAST COSTLY INVESTMENT.

4. PAPAPOV CONTINUED THAT BULGARIA IS MOST INTERESTED IN COMPUTER PROGRAMMING; CHEMICAL CATALYSIS; AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES, AND SEISMOLOGY. IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, BULGARIA HAS BECOME NUMBER TWO PER CAPITA IN THE WORLD IN ELECTRONICS. BULGARIA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, STRONGLY EMPHASIZING MATHEMATICS, IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONSIBLE. BULGARIAN STUDENTS DO ADVANCED WORK IN MATH BEFORE THEIR PEERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. SIGNING CEREMONY OCCURRED AS SCHEDULED. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND MEDIA REPS (VOA, AP, WASHINGTON POST) WERE PRESENT, BUT NO LOCAL MEDIA PICKED UP THE STORY. PAPAPOV DENIED INTERVIEW REQUESTS. DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING TO EMBASSY, INTER ALIA, ATKINSON AND PAPAPOV STATEMENTS AT CEREMONY.

6. COMMENT - PAPAPOV COMMENTED ON WARM ATMOSPHERE AT NSF AND INDICATED HIS PLEASURE AT RESULTS OF MEETING. ATKINSON COMMENTED LATER THAT HE EXPECTS THIS AGREEMENT TO BE ONE OF THE BEST OF ITS KIND. END COMMENT.

7. REPORTS OF OTHER MEETINGS FOLLOW SEPTTEL. VANCE

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